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DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

September 14, 1999

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CalFed Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report / CalFed Bay/Delta Program

Dear Mr. Snow,

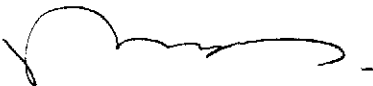
I am tired of letting large agricultural businesses and huge developers determine how water is managed in this state. Agriculture uses most of the water, pays artificially low prices, and makes little effort to conserve. Those of us living in cities use a smaller fraction of the water, pay higher water rates, subsidize agribusiness water rates, are forced to conserve to a much higher degree and then pay most of the cost of new dams, reservoirs and canals.

This is bad enough but now you propose to spend more building dams, reservoirs and canals when more environmentally and economically sound solutions exist. First and foremost is conservation by agribusiness. They could easily decrease their use by 15% and with more innovative methods, up to 25% decreased could be achieved. Considering the proportion of water used by agriculture, this would result in tremendous decrease in water needs.

Also important would be better management of groundwater and watersheds, preventing pollution at the source, and drinking water treatment. This would improve water quality for both people and wildlife.

In summary, I am opposed to making taxpayers pay for new water sources so that agribusiness can waste it, especially when it means we lose the chance to restore California's rivers, bays, and fisheries.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Niblack, M.D.